

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (new): A method for reducing the microbial contamination of surfaces or foodstuffs, comprising treating the surface of the foodstuff with one or more of the following:

- a) a solution of lactoferrin of acid pH;
- b) a solution of lactoferrin and a metal chelating agent.

Claim 29 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the metal chelating agent is EDTA.

Claim 30 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the pH of the solution is increased to a value above the initial pH of the solution a) or b) before treatment of the surface, said increased pH value being between 2 and 8.5.

Claim 31 (new): The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the increased pH is between 5 and 8.

Claim 32 (new): The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the increased pH is between 6 and 7.

Claim 33 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the solution further comprises 0.001 to 0.2% (w/v) of one or more polysaccharides.

Claim 34 (new): The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of pectin, carrageenan, heparin and agar-agar.

Claim 35 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein solution a) has a pH below 3 or b) has a pH below 5.

Claim 36 (new): The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the concentration of EDTA in the solution b) is more than 0.2 mM.

Claim 37 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the amount of lactoferrin in the solution is 0.2 to 20% (w/v).

Claim 38 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the surface to be treated is a surface in the oral cavity, wounded skin, or an inert surface, such as surgical instruments.

Claim 39 (new): The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the foodstuff to be treated is meat.

Claim 40 (new): A solution for reducing the microbial contamination of surfaces or of foodstuffs, comprising lactoferrin, the solution:

- a) having a pH below 3; or
- b) containing a metal chelating agent and having a pH below 5.

Claim 41 (new): A solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein the metal chelating agent is EDTA.

Claim 42 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein solution a) has a pH below 2.5.

Claim 43 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein solution a) has a pH below 2.1.

Claim 44 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein solution a) has a pH of about 2.

Claim 45 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, further comprising 0.001 to 0.2% (w/v) of one or more polysaccharides.

Claim 46 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 45, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of pectin, carrageenan, heparin and agar-agar.

Claim 47 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein 0.1 to 10 mM of EDTA is contained in the solution.

Claim 48 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein 0.2 to 10 mM of EDTA is contained in the solution.

Claim 49 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein 0.4 to 10 mM of EDTA is contained in the solution.

Claim 50 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein 0.6 to 10 mM of EDTA is contained in the solution.

Claim 51 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein 0.8 to 10 mM of EDTA is contained in the solution.

Claim 52 (new): The solution as claimed in claim 40, wherein 1 to 10 mM of EDTA is contained in the solution.

Claim 53 (new): A dry composition obtainable by drying a solution as claimed in claim 40.

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Claim 54 (new): A method for wound care, comprising administering the composition as claimed in claim 40.

Claim 55 (new): A method for oral care, comprising administering the composition as claimed in claim 40.

Claim 56 (new): A method for decontamination of inert surfaces, such as surgical instruments, comprising administering the composition as claimed in claim 40.

Claim 57 (new): A method for decontamination of food products, comprising administering the composition as claimed in claim 40.